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### UM law school dedicates new student training courtroom April 3

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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This release available electronically on INN (News Net).

March 27, 1998

**Contact:** E. Edwin Eck, law dean, 243-4311.

### **UM LAW SCHOOL DEDICATES NEW STUDENT TRAINING COURTROOM APRIL 3**

#### **MISSOULA --**

The University of Montana School of Law will dedicate its new Hoyt and Blewett Courtroom on Friday, April 3, as part of its annual Law Week events.

The courtroom is named for **Great Falls** attorneys John C. Hoyt and Alexander "Zander" Blewett III, who donated \$150,000 to modernize the law student training facility. The law partners will attend the 4 p.m. ceremony and reception. They will be joined by other donors to the project, including attorney Clifford A. Edwards of **Billings**; Litigation Abstract Inc. of **Missoula**, which provided computer equipment to reduce trial time; U.S. District Judge Don Molloy of **Missoula**, who gave a document camera that projects images of evidence throughout the courtroom; and the **Billings** law firm of Jarussi & Bishop, which furnished the courtroom.

The dedication ceremony will feature remarks by UM President George Dennison, law Dean E. Edwin Eck, U.S. Magistrate Richard Cebull of **Great Falls** and Larry Morlan, executive director of the UM Foundation. Law students Patrick Duffy, Sarah McMillan and Ashley Harrington will demonstrate courtroom equipment with help from Professors Cynthia Ford and Greg Munro.

Both Hoyt and Blewett earned law degrees from UM and went on to distinguished careers as trial lawyers. Because of their trial work -- especially representing victims, consumers and injured

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workers -- the two chose to help make the UM courtroom a state-of-the-art facility where law students can use the latest technology available while honing their trial skills. They made their gifts through The University of Montana Capital Campaign - *Ensuring a Tradition of Excellence*.

The renovation project involved gutting the interior of the old courtroom and turning it 90 degrees so that students now can sit on three sides of the docket area and have a better sight line of the attorneys. A projection screen and computer monitors on the judge's bench and counsel table will enable counsel to show documents or photos to the judge and then ask permission to project the materials to the jury.

"The whole jury can see an exhibit while the witness is discussing it," said Munro, who served as faculty coordinator for the project.

Hoyt, who earned a law degree in 1948, co-founded the Montana Trial Lawyers Association, which gave him its Career Achievement Award in 1993. He has served as state chair of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and was president of the Montana Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Blewett has practiced with Hoyt since 1985. He is a charter member of the Montana Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and is certified in civil trial advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Blewett earned his law degree in 1971.

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